

METHODS OF FORMING INTEGRATED CIRCUITS USING MASKS TO
PROVIDE ION IMPLANTATION SHIELDING TO PORTIONS OF A
SUBSTRATE ADJACENT TO AN ISOLATION REGION THEREIN AND
INTEGRATED CIRCUITS FORMED USING SAME

CLAIM FOR FOREIGN PRIORITY

This application claims priority to Korean Application No. 2000-35707, filed June 27, 2000, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to methods of forming integrated circuits and to integrated circuits in general, and more particularly, to methods of forming integrated circuit memory devices using ion implantation and to integrated circuits formed using same.

BACKGROUND

In dynamic random access memories (DRAMs), data can be recorded by storing charge in a capacitor of a memory cell. To keep data recorded in DRAMs, the data may need to be refreshed periodically. Data retention time is one of the characteristics used to determine the performance of DRAMs. One of the factors that influences data retention time is junction leakage current. Junction leakage current can be produced by an electric field at a pn junction boundary or by substrate defects in a depletion region. Decreasing the junction leakage current may increase data retention time and thereby improve the performance of DRAMs.

As the integration density of DRAMs increases, the size of a transistor included therein may decrease. Decreasing the size of a transistor may decrease the length of a channel region, thereby causing short channel effects such as a decrease in the threshold voltage V_T of the transistor. A doping concentration can be increased gradually during channel ion-implantation to compensate for a decrease in V_T and thereby adjust V_T to a proper level.

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a conventional channel ion-implantation used to adjust V_T . A p-type dopant can be ion-implanted into an entire p-type

integrated circuit substrate **10**, including a isolation region **12**, to form a doping region **20** without using an ion-implantation mask. Thereafter, a gate electrode **24** and an n-type source/drain region **26** can be formed.

When the channel ion-implantation is performed throughout the entire substrate **10**, as shown in FIG. 1, the source/drain region **26** can be influenced by the doping region **20** formed by the channel ion-implantation. In this case, when the doping concentration is increased during the channel ion-implantation to prevent a short channel effect, substrate defects may occur between the isolation region **12** and the source/drain region **26** or in a depletion region.

Since the dopant implanted during the channel ion-implantation may have a polarity that is opposite a dopant that is ion-implanted into the source/drain region, an electric field at the pn junction boundary may be increased, thereby increasing junction leakage current. Consequently, data retention time may be decreased. Moreover, channel ion-implantation performed at a high concentration may increase junction capacitance. As a result, when charge stored in the capacitors of memory cells is read, the information may be affected by noise, so that a sensing margin is decreased.

FIGS. 2A and 2B are cross-sectional views that illustrate conventional channel ion-implantation to adjust V_T . A doping region **50** can be formed by implanting a p-type dopant **46** into only a region where a gate electrode **54** will be formed on an integrated circuit substrate **40**, using a reverse gate pattern **44**, formed of a photoresist film, as an ion-implantation mask. Thereafter, the gate electrode **54** can be formed on the doping region **50**.

According to some conventional methods described with reference to FIGS. 2A and 2B, as the integration density of devices increases, it may become difficult to form the reverse gate pattern **44** used as a channel ion-implantation mask. In addition, when conventional methods are applied to the manufacturing of devices having a small pitch between gate electrodes **54**, various problems can be caused by the misalignment of the mask or by variation in the critical dimension in a channel ion-implantation step or a gate electrode-patterning step followed by the channel ion-implantation step. For example, when the reverse gate pattern **44** is misaligned, the doping region **50** formed at the edge of an isolation region **42** may be affected by the

junction leakage current. Accordingly, the operation of a device may be adversely affected.

In other conventional methods, channel ion-implantation can be performed using a reverse gate pattern as shown in FIG. 2A, and then a gate electrode may be formed to be self-aligned to the reverse gate pattern. However, in this method it may be difficult to form the structure of a gate electrode having multiple layers. In addition, processes of forming self-aligned contacts, such as a landing pad self-aligned with respect to a gate electrode may be impracticable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of methods according to the present invention may allow a channel region to be formed between isolation regions of an integrated circuit substrate. Pursuant to these embodiments, a mask can be formed on an isolation region that extends onto a portion of the substrate adjacent to the isolation region to provide a shielded portion of the substrate adjacent to the isolation region and an exposed portion of the substrate spaced apart from the isolation region having the shielded portion therebetween. A channel region can be formed in the exposed portion of the substrate.

In some embodiments according to the present invention, a first level of ions can be implanted in the shielded region adjacent to the isolation region. A second level of ions can be implanted in the channel region spaced apart from the isolation region, wherein the second level is greater than the first level.

In some embodiments according to the present invention, boron ions are implanted in the exposed region and then boron difluoride ions are implanted in the exposed region. In some embodiments according to the present invention, a gate electrode can be formed on the channel region and a contact can be formed on the shielded region. Source and drain regions can be formed in the channel region self aligned to the gate electrode.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1, 2A and 2B are a cross-sectional views that illustrate conventional methods of forming channel regions in integrated circuit memory devices using ion implantation.

5 FIGS. 3A through 8 are diagrams that illustrate embodiments of methods for forming channel regions in integrated circuits and integrated circuit according to the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a graph that illustrates electrical characteristics of integrated circuits formed using embodiments of methods according to the present invention and
10 conventional integrated circuits.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention now will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the
15 invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art. In the drawings, the thickness of layers and regions are exaggerated for clarity. It will
20 be understood that when an element such as a layer, region or substrate is referred to as being "on" another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout.

FIG. 3A is a top view of an integrated circuit substrate **100** in which an isolation region **102** is formed using a trench isolation method. FIG. 3B is a cross-sectional
25 view of FIG. 3A taken along the line III-III'. As shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B, a well (not shown) and a channel stop layer **106** are formed in the integrated circuit substrate **100** using an ion-implantation method in which an active region **104** is defined by the isolation region **102**. The active region **104** includes two portions **104a** that are spaced apart from one another and on which gate electrodes can be subsequently
30 formed. The active region **104** also includes two portions **104c** each located between respective ones of the portions **104a** and the isolation region **102** adjacent thereto and on which storage node contacts of a capacitor can be subsequently formed. The active

region **104** further includes a portion **104b** between the two portions **104a** on which a bit line contact can be subsequently formed.

FIG. 4A is a top view of the integrated circuit substrate **100** including the isolation region **102** therein and having a channel ion-implantation mask **110** thereon.

5 FIG. 4B is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 4A taken along the line IV-IV'. As shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, the mask pattern **110** is formed on the isolation region **102** and extends onto a portion of the substrate **100** adjacent to the isolation region **102** to shield the portions **104c** of the substrate **100** adjacent to the isolation region. In some embodiments, the shielded portions **104c** of the substrate **100** extend about 0.4 mm
10 microns beyond the isolation region **102** and may be controlled with a range of about 0.1 mm to 0.18 mm.

The mask pattern **110** also includes an opening **112** that exposes the portions **104a** and **104b** of the active region **104**. The mask pattern **110** can be formed to completely shield the entire portion **104c**. The mask pattern **110** can be formed, for
15 example, of a photoresist film.

Referring to FIG. 5, a p-type dopant **120** is implanted into the integrated circuit substrate **100** using the mask pattern **110** as an ion-implantation mask, thereby forming a channel region **122** in the portions **104a** and **104b** of the active region **104**. The p-type dopant **120** may be formed of boron ions or boron difluoride ions. The
20 channel implantation may be performed two or more times to form the channel region **122**. For example, a first channel ion-implantation can be performed using boron ions and a second local channel ion-implantation process can be performed thereafter using boron difluoride ions to form the channel ion-implantation region **122**. In some embodiments of ion implantation according to the present invention, ion energies and
25 ion implantation concentrations per unit area may be controlled. The substrate may have different ion concentration distributions depending on the depth of the substrate after an ion implantation process. Further, the ion concentration distributions in the substrate may be changed after a subsequent heat treatment. Thus, the level of ion concentration can be known accurately for the dimension ions/cm², and can be
30 estimated for the dimension ions/cm³. In some embodiment of the present invention, the first and second levels of ion concentrations resulting from a channel ion

implantation can be about 1×10^{17} ions/cm³. The first and second levels of ion concentrations can be about 5×10^{12} to 15×10^{12} ions/cm².

Referring to FIG. 6, the mask pattern **110** is removed, and a gate electrode **130** is formed on the portion **104a**. A silicon nitride film pattern **132**, which can be used
5 as an etching mask to form the gate electrode **130**, can remain on the upper surface of the gate electrode **130**.

Referring to FIG. 7, a nitride spacer **134** is formed on the sidewalls of the gate electrode **130** and the silicon nitride film pattern **132**. Thereafter, an n-type dopant
10 **140** is ion-implanted into the integrated circuit substrate **100** to form source/drain regions **142a** and **142b** in the portions **104b** and **104c**, respectively. It will be understood by those having skill in the art that the source/drain regions **142a** and **142b** can be formed to have a lightly doped drain (LDD) structure.

A contact plug for connecting the source/drain region **142a** to a bit line is formed on the source/drain region **142a**, and a contact plug for connecting the
15 source/drain region **142b** to a storage node of a capacitor is formed on the source/drain region **142b**. As illustrated in FIG. 5, the channel region **122** is positioned below the two gate electrodes **130** and a bit line contact, which is formed in the portion **104b** between the two gate electrodes **130**, but is not positioned below a storage node contact of a capacitor formed in the portion **104c**. Accordingly, the
20 effect of the channel ion-implantation on the source/drain region **142b** may be reduced. Therefore, damage from the channel ion-implantation (and/or an increase in junction leakage current or junction capacitance) due to an increase in an electric field can be prevented, thereby increasing data retention time. Junction leakage current may be produced in the source/drain region **142a** below the bit line contact due to the
25 effect of the channel ion-implantation region **122**, but the effects of such leakage current can be ignored.

Referring to FIG. 8, a contact plug **150a** is formed on the portion **104b** to connect to the source/drain region **142a**, and a contact plug **150b** is formed on the portion **104c** to be connected to the source/drain region **142b**. Each of the contact
30 plugs **150a** and **150b** is formed self-aligned to each gate electrode **130**. The contact plug **150a** connects the source/drain region **142a** to a bit line, and the contact plug **150b** connects the source/drain region **142b** to a storage node of a capacitor.

As described above, according to embodiments of methods of forming integrated circuits, the source/drain region **142b** may not be influenced by channel ion-implantation used to adjust V_T of a transistor to a proper level, thereby decreasing junction leakage current. Consequently, sheet resistance at a junction area can be decreased so that the saturation current of a transistor can be increased. In addition, junction capacitance can be decreased so that the floating capacitance of the bit line can be decreased.

FIG. 9 is a graph illustrates the electrical characteristics of integrated circuit memory devices formed using embodiments of methods according to the present invention. An integrated circuit memory device according to the present invention, as shown in FIG. 8, was used to obtain the estimated results shown in FIG. 9.

During channel ion-implantation, boron ions were implanted into a portion over which a gate electrode would be formed and into a portion where a source/drain region connected to a bit line contact would be formed in an active region at a dose of about $1.0E13/cm^2$ and with ion-implantation energy of about 30KeV in a first local ion-implantation step. Then boron difluoride ions were implanted into the portion over which the gate electrode would be formed and the portion where the source/drain region connected to the bit line contact would be formed in the active region at a dose of about $1.2E13/cm^2$ and with ion-implantation energy of about 30KeV in a second local ion-implantation process. This case is represented by - - in the graph of FIG. 9. In another case, dual channel ion-implantation was performed under the same conditions as the above case, but channel ion-implantation was performed on an entire active region as in the prior art described in FIG. 1. This case is represented by - - in the graph of FIG. 9. The two cases are represented by the numbers of accumulated failed cells according to refresh time.

In addition, during channel ion-implantation, boron ions were implanted into a portion over which a gate electrode would be formed and into a portion where a source/drain region connected to a bit line contact would be formed in an active region at a dose of about $1.0E13/cm^2$ and with ion-implantation energy of about 30KeV in a first local ion-implantation step, and then boron difluoride ions were implanted into only the portion over which the gate electrode would be formed and the portion where the source/drain region connecting to the bit line contact would be formed in the active region at a dose of about $1.5E13/cm^2$ and with ion-implantation

energy of about 30KeV in a second local ion-implantation process. This case is represented by -▽- in the graph of FIG. 9. In another case, dual channel ion-implantation was performed under the same conditions as the above case, but the channel ion-implantation was performed on an entire active region as in the prior art described in FIG. 1. This case is represented by - - in the graph of FIG. 9. The two cases are represented by the numbers of accumulated failed cells according to refresh time.

As shown in FIG. 9, the number of failed cells in an integrated circuit memory device manufactured by local channel ion-implantation on an active region according to the present invention can be reduced by about 20-30% compared to a integrated circuit memory device formed using conventional channel ion-implantation throughout an active region according to a conventional method.

In embodiments of methods of forming integrated circuit memory devices according to the present invention, a mask pattern can be formed to include an opening which exposes a portion of the substrate where a gate electrode is formed and a portion where a source/drain region connected to a bit line contact is formed in an active region of a integrated circuit substrate. Ions can be implanted through the mask to adjust V_T of a cell transistor to a proper level. A source/drain region connected to a storage node contact of a capacitor, may not be affected by the channel ion-implantation. As a result, damage to a substrate or an increase in junction leakage current due to an increase in an electric field can be reduced near a source/drain region connected to a storage node contact. In addition, sheet resistance in a junction area can be reduced, thereby increasing the saturation current of a cell transistor, and junction capacitance can be reduced, thereby decreasing the floating capacitance of a bit line.

In the drawings and specification, there have been disclosed typical preferred embodiments of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims.